

What is claimed is:

1. In a full-duplex communications system having at least one node within a cloud compliant with the P1394b standard, a method for identifying a senior border node comprising the acts of:
 - determining whether the node was the last node within the cloud to transmit a Self-ID packet; and
 - marking said node as the senior border node if said node was the last node within the cloud to transmit a Self-ID packet.
2. A machine readable medium containing a data structure for arbitrating on a high performance serial bus comprising a symbol having an indication therein for indicating that a PHY or link layer from a Legacy cloud wishes to arbitrate within a beta cloud.
3. A machine readable data transmission containing a data structure for arbitrating on a high performance serial bus comprising a symbol having an indication therein for indicating that a device or link from a Legacy cloud wishes to arbitrate within a beta cloud.
4. In a full-duplex communications system having a plurality of border nodes within a beta cloud, a method for issuing gap tokens within a beta cloud comprising having the plurality of border devices issue event gap tokens simultaneously.

5. In a full-duplex communications system having a plurality of border nodes within a beta cloud, a method for issuing gap tokens within a beta cloud comprising ensuring that one of the plurality of border devices is selecting as the BOSS node before an extended period of IDLE time appears on the bus.
6. In a full-duplex communications system having a plurality of border nodes within a beta cloud, and one of the border nodes being a senior border node, a method for issuing gap tokens within a beta cloud comprising giving responsibility for issuing gap tokens in the beta cloud to the senior border node.
7. In a full-duplex communications system having at least one beta device and a senior border node, a method for returning control to the senior border node comprising:
 - granting BOSSship to a predetermined port by the beta device; and
 - in the alternative, passing control of the system towards the senior border node by the beta device.
8. In a hybrid communications system having a plurality of ports and at least one beta device having senior and junior ports, a method for returning control to a senior border comprising:
 - determining by the beta device whether an end of subaction has been reached;

sending a DATA-END to all ports if an end of subaction has not been

reached;

if a subaction has been reached, further determining by said beta device
whether there are any in-phase requests to grant from a requesting port;

if there are any in-phase requests, sending by said beta device a GRANT to
said requesting port, and sending a DATA_NULL to all other ports;

if there are no in-phase requests; further determining by said beta device
whether said beta device is a senior border device;

sending by said beta device a DATA-END out all said beta device's ports if
said beta device is a senior border node; and

sending a GRANT symbol out said beta device's senior port, and sending a
DATA-END out said beta device's junior ports if said beta device is not a
senior border node.